

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., tried to test the small government cred of a House Energy and Commerce panel Friday by arguing it's inconsistent for lawmakers to oppose Internet regulation and also support a ban on online gambling.

"I thought there was a consensus in this Congress: Hands off the Internet. Should we single out the Internet for specific prohibitions and restrictions?" Frank asked the Manufacturing subpanel in support of his bill legalizing online gambling, offered with **Rep. John Campbell, R-Calif.**

Frank, ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, made a strong push to connect his bill with anti-regulatory sentiments dominant in the House.

"I hear people talk about the nanny state. I hear people saying we shouldn't tell 8-year-olds what to eat for lunch. Leaving that aside, why should we tell the 8-year-old's parents what to do for fun?" Frank asked.

It's not clear if Republicans buy the small government pitch for online gambling. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., testified in support of the ban, arguing that lifting it would cause more "bankruptcies, suicides and corruption."